

Catholic Hispanic Congreso Planned for Yakima

“I am your God” (Isaiah 41:10) is the theme of the 18th Catholic Hispanic *Congreso* of Evangelization scheduled for April 28-30 at the Yakima Valley SunDome.

More than 5,000 people are expected to join in this free annual event, which will begin on Friday, April 28, with a gospel music concert and a Mass of Healing. Gospel singers will include **Los Búhos** of Mexicali, B.C., México.

On Saturday, there will be more gospel music and talks by **Bishop Joseph J. Tyson**; **Father Jaime Chacon**, spiritual adviser of the Catholic Congreso; **Fray Rafael Guzmán Gabriel** of Bolivia and **Winston Castro**, missionary. Saturday also will include a holy hour before the Blessed Sacrament. On Sunday, Bishop Tyson will be principal celebrant for a concluding Mass.

The Catholic Hispanic Congreso began in 1999 with a small group of parishioners from St. Joseph Catholic Church Charismatic Prayer Group *Rios de Agua Viva* in Yakima. Since then, the Congreso has grown to become a means of formation for the Catholic Hispanic community. Various Charismatic Prayer Groups from parishes of the Yakima Diocese have been involved in this annual event, giving their “grain of sand” and hard work for the common good of area families, organizers say.

The Congreso has sustained itself these past 17 years through many fundraisers and generous donations received, for the purpose of continuing the evangelization of God's people.

Pope Saint John Paul II urged Catholics to not be afraid, to step out into the deep in spreading the light of Christ to the world, using every modern means. As stewards, our mission is to do just that, and to help others discover their personal relationship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Congreso organizers say.

Although the Congreso will be in Spanish, everyone is welcome to attend! For more information call (509) 307-1299.

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